

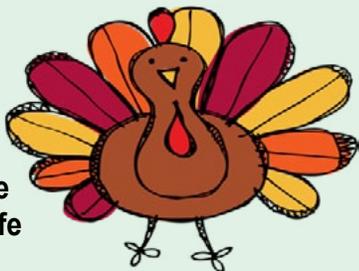
# Translines EXPRESS

Nov. 16, 2016

## Employee Recognition



**Congratulations to the District Five, Area Three, Guard Rail Repair Team for being selected as the Example of Excellence for the third quarter of 2016. The team discovered major rutting on a shoo-fly detour for a U.S. 160 bridge that was about to be removed. Quick work that day was needed to replace guard rail and make other improvements to reopen the existing bridge and keep traffic moving. From left to right, first row; Robin Gregory, Desiree Determan, Acting Secretary Richard Carlson, Cavan Schmeidler, Augie Carrillo Jr., second row; Justin Deal, Paul Thompson, Greg Bayless, Lou Hoover, AJ Wilson, Daniel Tapia, Daniel Blanchat and Stan Schwantes. Not pictured are Bruce Smith, Mike Elliott, Gene Wedman, Dennis Holdt and Chad Olney.**



**Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!**

All state offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25.

### **Kansas travel information**

- ◆ KanDrive - [www.kandrive.org](http://www.kandrive.org)
- ◆ Call 5-1-1, within Kansas, 866-511-5368 from out of state

## South Lawrence Trafficway

**South Lawrence Trafficway:** A ceremony on Nov. 4 celebrated the decades-long effort to build the east leg of the K-10 South Lawrence Trafficway.

Gov. Sam Brownback, Acting Secretary Richard Carlson, U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts and other officials cut the ribbon and spoke at the event. Then people walked or biked through part of the Baker Wetlands. "I don't think I'm exaggerating to call this occasion momentous. In fact, that might be understating it," said Acting Secretary Carlson. "I'm sure there are a lot of you who wondered whether we would ever get to this point." The four-lane, six-mile SLT east leg extends from east of Lawrence south around the city to U.S. 59. It connects to the west leg of the SLT, which was completed in 1996, and ties into the KTA west of Lawrence. The \$140 million project began in November 2013 and opened to traffic on Nov. 9. To view an aerial map that shows traffic movements, click [here](#).

**Photos on next two pages**

## South Lawrence Trafficway



Above, participating in the ribbon cutting for the east leg of the South Lawrence Trafficway were, from left to right, Acting Secretary Richard Carlson, Kansas U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, Gov. Sam Brownback, FHWA Kansas Division Administrator Rick Backlund, Lawrence Mayor Mike Amyx, Former Lawrence Chamber of Commerce CEO Gary Toebben, Douglas County Commissioner Jim Flory, Emery Sapp & Sons Executive Team Member Tim Paulson and HNTB Vice President Mike Hess. At right, Gov. Sam Brownback speaks at the event. Below, walkers, bicyclists and other travelers participate in the public walk/bike celebration on a half-mile section of K-10 through the Baker Wetlands after the ribbon cutting.



Acting Secretary Richard Carlson asks people involved in the 52-year projects to raise their hands at the SLT ceremony.



From left to right, former State Transportation Engineers Mike Lackey, Warren Sick and Jerry Younger; former Secretaries Mike King, (Carolyn Carlson), E. Dean Carlson, Michael Johnston and Deb Miller; and current State Transportation Engineer Catherine Patrick join in the SLT celebration.



Sen. Pat Roberts was one of nine speakers at the SLT ceremony.



## Johnson County Gateway celebration

Tuesday, Nov. 29, at 11 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza Lenexa Ballroom, 12601 W. 95th Street, in Lenexa.

### Trivia!

#### Pilgrims

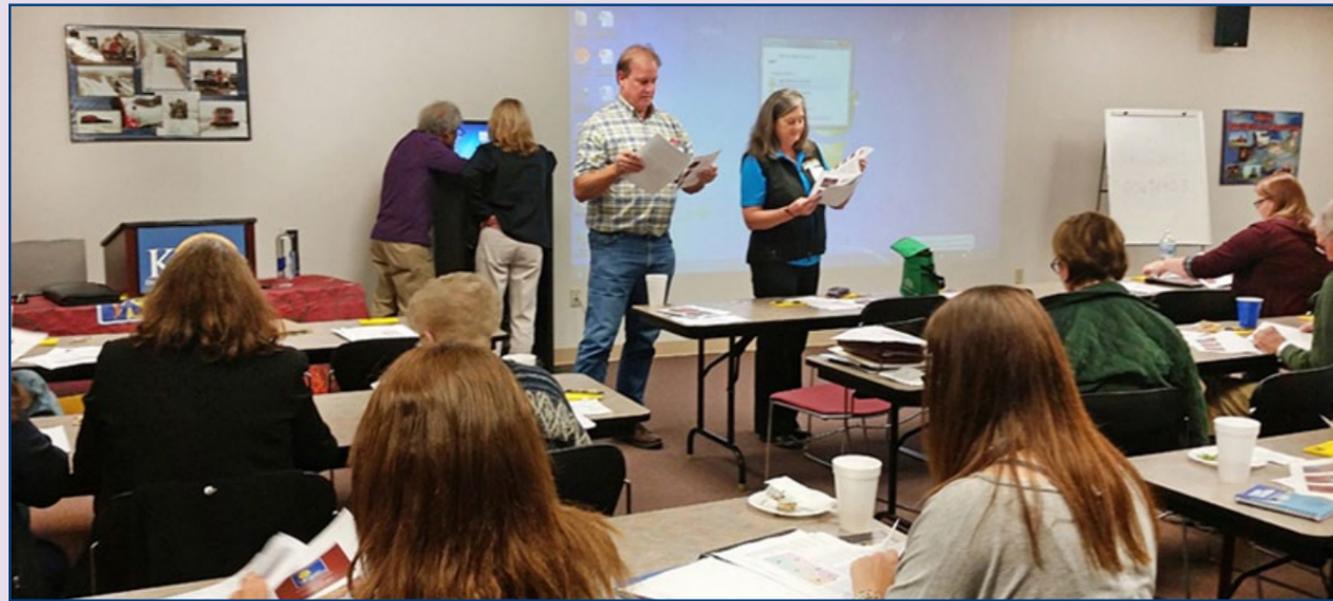
1. Where did the Pilgrims first land?
2. What did the Pilgrims drink to help prevent scurvy?
3. What utensil did the Pilgrims not have?
4. What does the word pilgrim mean?
5. The Mayflower and another ship originally set sail – what was the name of the other ship?
6. What was the name of the Native American who helped the Pilgrims learn how to survive?

### Kudos

*Email received on Nov. 11 -*

Not sure whom to contact, but wanted to congratulate all the people who worked the just opened section of K-10. You've done an outstanding job. I live close to the middle turnpike entrance on 2nd street. I drive to work at the schools in DeSoto a couple of times a week; it took me 45 minutes to cross town and then deal with the traffic on 23rd street to get to east K-10. I discovered this morning that by taking 59 south (Iowa St.) to the K-10 entrance, it takes me only 30 minutes to get to DeSoto. But that is just a personal thing for me. What I also discovered was the great easy to understand signage. It is so clear where and how to exit and enter. The "59" exit in the pavement with a slight rumble makes it easy not to miss. So please pass this on. With a minimum amount of disruption you built a great road. Feel "proud."  
Thanks

### Kansas Byways



**KDOT's Scott Shield, left, and Sue Stringer, with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, talk to participants about promoting the Kansas Byways at the annual meeting in Salina on Nov. 12.**

**Scenic routes:** Promoting and marketing the Kansas Byways brings tourism and economic benefits to communities across the state. Finding ways to increase this effort was a focus of the Kansas Byways Annual Meeting on Nov. 10 in Salina. Sue Stringer, with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, and KDOT's Scott Shields discussed various ways to promote the byways including social media and printed publications. All of these marketing efforts are linked to one another and can appear on computers, tablet or smart phones.

Local volunteers are also a key part - they work to develop kiosks and overlooks, make presentations to community members and work with city and county governmental agencies to promote their scenic areas. The National Byways program was established in 1991 by the FHWA led to the creation of the Kansas Scenic Byways program. Kansas has 12 byways - nine scenic, two of which are National Scenic Byways, and three historic byways. To learn more about Kansas byways, go to <https://www.travelks.com/ksbyways/>.

### District Five



**Preserving history:** KDOT began initial work on a \$16.9 million bridge replacement and four-lane reconstruction project in August on U.S. 56 running through the city of Ellinwood.

Located beneath Ellinwood's Historic Wolf Hotel is an abandoned underground city that was once home to thriving brothels, bars, gambling, barber shops and even a harness store. These former businesses, founded in the late 1800s, were connected by a series of well-built, underground tunnels that can still be toured today.

In order to preserve the local historic site, KDOT staff took an October visit to the tunnels underneath the City of Ellinwood. Employees documented the condition and structural integrity of the tunnels in order to limit any potential impact the construction project could make and help preserve the historical area. The construction project could also uncover forgotten tunnels that were previously filled in.



**At top, construction on U.S. 56 in Ellinwood is under way. Stephen Bass' road squad and Mark Hurt's bridge squad designed the project. Above, Sean Kelly, Engineering Technician Senior in Great Bend, goes down one of the stairways to the tunnels. At left, the former harness store that can be found in part of the abandoned underground city.**

## Kansas Transportation

Thursday, Nov. 3

### #IAMKDOT: John Gatz

This month's #IAMKDOT feature is John Gatz.

Gatz is a Senior Engineering Technician from District 5 and has worked at KDOT for almost 15 years. He began his career as an Engineering Technician. Gatz would describe himself as a father, a son, husband and a golf enthusiast.

This illustration shows Gatz inspecting the quality and construction of the rumble strips on U.S. 400 in eastern Pratt County.

*#IAMKDOT is an illustration project that recognizes KDOT employees who work hard to ensure Kansans enjoy safe roads, rails and skies. Safe and successful transportation also helps Kansans financially. Some employees of KDOT fill dangerous but necessary positions and this project also serves as a reminder for travelers to slow down and remember that underneath those neon vests are individuals with families and hobbies waiting for them at home.*



Do you know a KDOT worker that deserves recognition? Email [Mallory.Goeke@ks.gov](mailto:Mallory.Goeke@ks.gov).

To see more stories on other transportation topics, check out the regular posts on the Kansas Transportation blog at <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>



### KTA

*KTA celebrated 64 employees with 1,085 years of collective service at their annual Service Awards at the Wichita Warren Theater Old Town.*

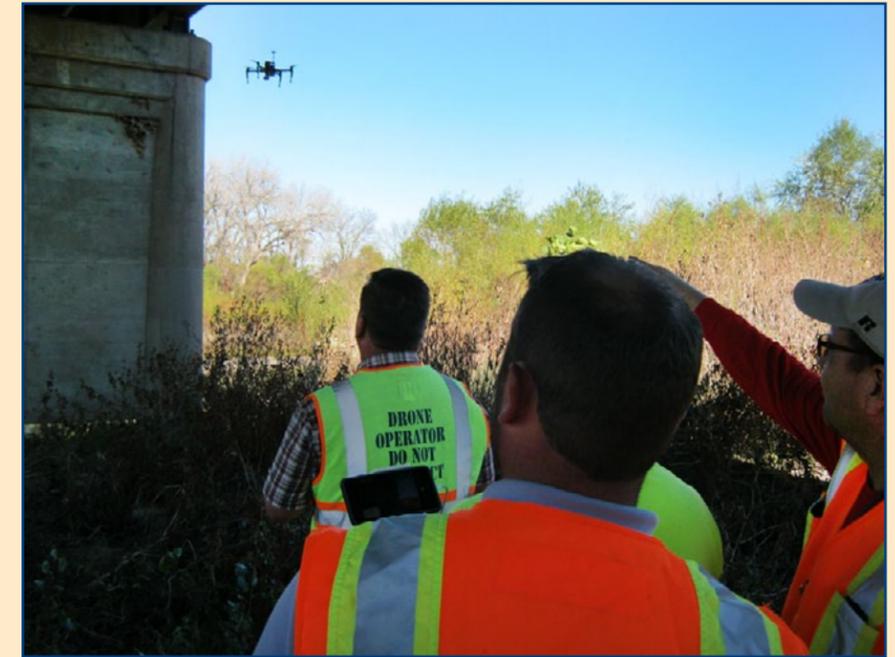
**Testing drones for bridge, tower inspections:** The new Kansas Unmanned Aerial Systems program started test flights last Friday to find ways to use drones for KDOT bridge and tower inspections.

“Our Aviation and Bridge inspection teams are doing great work in testing drones to enhance the safety of KDOT workers and improve cost efficiencies,” said Acting Secretary Richard Carlson. “We believe UAS may reduce the need to place our engineers in potentially dangerous situations and we intend to pursue every opportunity that makes them more efficient.”

This is the first of several cooperative efforts KDOT is leading to employ new UAS technologies that increase public safety.

“It’s important we keep safety and personal privacy our top priorities for this program,” said KDOT’s UAS Director Bob Brock. “KDOT inspectors working directly with UAS operators is an exciting first step that we will follow with many more flight tests to ensure we meet the stringent requirements associated with bridge inspection.”

*At top right, KDOT workers and others use a drone to inspect a bridge. At right, Scott Jackson with KC Drones (in the safety vest) shows KDOT employees, from left to right, Matt Bleier, Don Whisler Greg Chenoweth and Justin Shaw, different views of a bridge that can be seen by using a drone.*



### Traffic Incident Response Week

**Promote safety:** Emergency responders across the country work to help save lives at the scene of traffic incidents. Every year, hundreds of emergency responders representing fire, law enforcement, emergency medical services, transportation agencies and others are struck and either injured or killed while responding. Most times, these tragedies are caused by distracted drivers or drivers who do not move over.

To help raise awareness about the dangers emergency responder face at these incidents, Traffic Incident Response Week is under way from Nov. 14-18. The Traffic Incident Management Network has many resources available to help promote this effort. For more information, go to <http://timnetwork.org/traffic-incident-response-awareness-week/>.



## In Memory

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree Stephen Carroll, who passed away on Nov. 2 in Topeka. He worked for KDOT for 21 years.

Condolences to friends and family of KDOT retiree Ken Kiser who died Nov. 13 in Anthony. Ken worked at KDOT for approximately 30 years as an Equipment Operator II at the Anthony Subarea before he retired.

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. At the tip of Cape Cod, in what is now Provincetown. They were trying to make it to the Hudson River. With winter approaching they crossed the bay to Plymouth.
2. Lemon juice
3. Forks. They used a knife, spoon and their fingers.
4. A traveler who is on a journey to a holy place.
5. The Speedwell. It began to leak right after leaving so it returned to port and as many people got on the Mayflower as possible.
6. Squanto.

## KTA



**Crews complete the concrete pour for the Arkansas River Bridge (I-35/KTA mile marker 44.3) deck after 10.5 hours.**

## General

### No joke: TP is being used on cracks...in Colorado city's roads:

According to a report in Better Roads, the city of Littleton, Colo., is using toilet paper to help seal cracks on roughly 120 streets within its borders. There's more to it than just single- or two-ply bathroom tissue being set on the cracks, according to The Denver Post. The paper is applied with a paint roller over the tar crack filler as a means of absorbing the oil from the material. This, in turn, aims to keep the asphalt residue from sticking to tires or shoes.

The tissue also helps officials allow traffic on the roads right away. "It means traffic has better access because we don't have to close down a street to do the sealing," Littleton spokeswoman Kelli Narde told The Denver Post. The toilet paper used is biodegradable so it breaks down quickly, leaving little mess. Lincoln, Neb., has used toilet paper when filling cracks since 2014, but officials say single ply is the best to use, as the top ply in two-ply won't absorb the oil and blows away.

## General



**KDOT Director of Policy Joel Skelley, in front of screen, and other Executive Staff members met with a government delegation from China on Nov. 10 at Headquarters in Topeka to discuss and share information on transportation issues.**

## General



**A display on a hill along I-35 near Johnson Drive in the Kansas City metro area honors and thanks veterans for their service. The photo was taken just before Veteran's Day, which was Nov. 11.**

# KDOT Employee Council Holiday Ornament Order Form

# 2016

Headquarters: Contact your Council Rep.

Districts/Retirees: Mail form to -  
Ruby Hilton, ESOB - 13th Floor,  
700 SW Harrison, Topeka, KS 66603

Year	Quantity	Cost	Total
<b>2016</b>		<b>\$5.00</b>	
2015		\$3.00	
2014		\$3.00	
2013		\$3.00	
2012		\$3.00	
2010		\$3.00	
<b>Total Paid:</b>			



**Don't miss out - they are going fast!**

Please Print -

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Retirees only - home address)*

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable  
to KDOT Employee  
Council

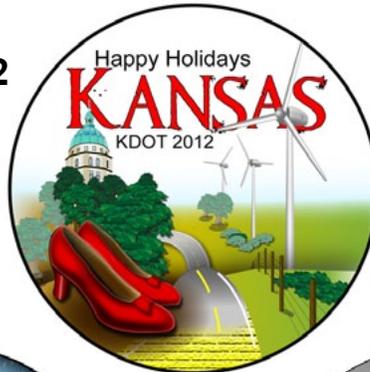
For more details, call  
Ruby at (785) 291-3980

## ----- Past Ornaments Still Available -----

2010



2012



Supply is limited  
on ornaments  
from previous  
years - first  
come, first serve

2013



2014



2015

